

Health Advisory:

Carnival Conquest Cruise Ship Legionnaires' Disease

June 21, 2005

This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov>

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies, and/or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

Health Advisory
June 21, 2005

FROM: JULIA M. ECKSTEIN
DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Public Health Notice to Carnival Conquest Passengers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has learned of three individuals who developed pneumonia after a vacation on a Carnival Conquest cruise ship; two of these three individuals were diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease. Legionnaires' disease is spread through breathing in small water droplets that contain bacteria; it is not spread from person to person.

CDC is trying to determine whether any additional passengers got pneumonia or Legionnaires' disease during or within two weeks of their cruise vacation. The diseases occurred on the same cruise ship on separate sailings in March, April, and May 2005. The exposure to Legionnaires' disease may have occurred on the ship, while visiting one of the ports of call, or before or after the cruise. CDC is working with Carnival to identify the source of the illness. Upon CDC's request and in strictest confidence, Carnival has provided CDC with their passenger list and passengers are being contacted to assist with the investigation. Individuals will not develop Legionnaires' disease after 14 days of exposure.

If you would like to know more on Legionellosis (Legionnaires' disease) you can visit our web site at: <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/Legionellosis/> or if you have questions or concerns relating to this incident, you may contact the Department of Health and Senior Services at 800-392-0272.

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